

IN THE SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

Please cancel paragraphs 0025, 0029, 0030, 0031, 0033, 0034, 0039 and 0040 of the Substitute Specification. Please replace those cancelled paragraphs with the following replacement paragraphs 0025, 0029, 0030, 0031, 0033, 0034, 0039 and 0040, as follows.

[0025] Several front marks 02 are located on a feed table 01 in Fig. 1, which open toward the bottom. There are side marks 03 with cover marks 04. The cover marks 04 are located underneath a suction roller 05 and in the grooves of the suction roller 05. The suction roller 05 has two diametrically oppositely located rows of suction holes 06, of which the upper row of suction holes 06 is visible in Fig. 1. The suction roller 05 has axle journals that rotate in two bearing arms 07, which are adjustably fastened on the feed table outside of the paper format. Suction air is conducted into the suction roller 05 through a hose 09 and is conducted to the inside of the suction tube wall by a slit mouthpiece 22, which can only be seen in Fig. 2. The axis of rotation of the suction roller 05 is located parallel with the running direction L of the sheets. The suction roller 05 ~~and~~ is positioned in the vicinity of the lateral sheet edge to be aligned, as seen in Fig. 1. Driving of the suction roller 05 for rotation about its axis of rotation is

provided, as seen in Figs. 1 and 3, via a toothed belt pulley 14, a toothed belt 15 and a pinion 16 of a constant speed shaft located in the sheet delivery device or on the printing press or, for example, via its own rpm- or positionally- regulated electric drive mechanism by the use of an electronic shaft.

[0029] Fig. 1 shows that the trailing end of the sheet 10 has not yet left the area of the suction roller 05. However, the lateral displacement A of the first sheet 10 caused by the conventional sheet feeder makes it possible for the suction roller to have already actively pulled the next, second sheet 11, which is already located in the front marks 02, as seen in Fig. 1, laterally toward the left against the side marks 03. The sheet feeding of this second sheet 11 can start soon, even if the end of the first sheet 10 still covers the front marks 02.

[0030] A third sheet 12, which has already arrived in the area of the suction roller 05, slowly moves in the sheet travel direction L toward the front marks 02, also as seen in Fig. 1. Since it lies underneath the second sheet 11, which second sheet 11 is just being pulled laterally against the side marks 03 by the suction roller 05 acting from

above, as seen in Fig. 2, the suction roller 05 cannot yet grasp the third sheet 12 by use of its suction. This grasping of sheet 12 by the roller 05 only takes place in the next time period, when the second sheet 11, which is now laterally displaced by the distance A by the operation of the conventional sheet feeder, in the same way as was done with the first sheet 10, and which second sheet 11 now enters into the press and uncovers the suction slit 06 in the suction roller 05 for the third sheet 12, etc. A tolerance strip 13 of, for example, ± 6 mm has been drawn in Figs. 1 and 2 in hatched lines. The individual scaled, imbricated or overlying sheets move, with this maximum amount of scattering, in the sheet running direction L, onto the feed table 01 from the sheet feeder with their leading edges moving into engagement with the front marks 02. The active narrow, but long suction conduit 06 of the suction roller 05, which is located above the stream of sheets, is located underneath the center line of the suction roller 05, and between the sheet inlet tolerance strip 13 and the lateral edge of all of the arriving lateral sheet edges, which-~~arriving~~ lateral sheet edges are subsequently offset, by the amount A, from the side marks 03 as they depart the feed table 01. This tolerance strip is the strip identified by B in Figs. 1 and 2. With this arrangement, the suction roller 05 catches all sheets 10, 11, 12 of the scaled stream arriving inside the

tolerance strip 13, but not the offset lateral edges of all incoming sheets 10, 11, 12 after they are offset by the distance A as they leave the feed table 01.

[0031] The ratio of the effective holding surface₁ in the longitudinal direction l05₁ to the effective holding surface₁ in the transverse direction b05₁ of the suction roller 05 should be greater than 3, and preferably should be greater than 5.

[0033] Fig. 2 shows the suction roller 05 located above the feed table/comb plate 01. The first sheet 10 enters the press, as it exits from the feed table 01, offset from the side mark 03 by the distance A, for example 26 mm. Sheet 10 lies to the right of the suction roller center outside of the suction air slit mouthpiece 22.

[0034] The second sheet 11, which is entering the ~~feed~~ table 01, is pulled laterally against the side mark 03 by one of the two raised suction air segments with suction holes 06 of the suction roller 05. Several cover marks, or guide tongues 04, project past the side marks 03 into the grooves of the suction roller 05 as far as approximately the center underneath the suction roller 05. The cover marks 04 prevent

thin sheets 10, 11, 12 from arching in the nip formed between the feed table 01, the side mark 03 and the suction roller 05 when these sheets are coming into contact with the side marks 03.

[0039] Where, in accordance with Fig. 2, the cover marks/guide tongues 04 are located in the area adjacent the bottom of the suction rollers, i.e. near the suction roller grooves, the suction slit 22 in the pipe 21 is not cut through in the area of the suction roller grooves, which increases the stability of the suction pipe 21. The vacuum is switched extremely rapidly, since it is maintained in the pipe 21 and only the air holes 06 close to the slit mouthpiece 22 must be emptied or evacuated by suction. With the suction tube 05, the outer walls of the suction tube 05, between the two active suction elements 06, have been placed slightly radially inwardly. This makes it easier for the offset, exiting first sheets ~~sheet~~ 10, which first sheets 10 are now running into the press, to leave the feed table 01 without interference with the outer wall of the suction tube 05 as they pass next to and parallel with the suction roller center.

[0040] In Fig. 3, the incoming third sheet 12 is located within the scale tolerance

strip 13, to the right of the side mark 03 and to the left of the center of the suction roller 05, so that it lies actually in the suction area 22. However, since the second sheet 11 still lies on top of the third sheet 12, and the second sheet 11 is being pulled against the side mark 03 by the suction roller 05 from above, the third sheet 12 cannot yet be engaged~~pulled up~~ by suction from~~by~~ the suction roller 05 because it is covered by the second sheet 11. In spite of the operating side pull mark 03, the third sheet 12 can continue to move unhindered in the sheet running direction toward~~of~~ the front marks 02.